

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /162 W

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P 170930Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6935

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FI, EEC

SUBJ: FINNISH PARLIAMENT APPROVES RATIFICATION OF EEC AGREEMENT

1. AFTER SIX HOURS OF DEBATE, THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT, ON NOVEMBER 16, APPROVED RATIFICATION OF FINLAND'S FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC BY 141 TO 36, WITH 7 ABSTENTIONS AND 15 ABSENT.

2. TO BECOME EFFECTIVE, THE BILL WILL STILL HAVE TO BE COUNTER-SIGNED BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN -- WHICH IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK, WELL IN TIME FOR MEETING THE NOVEMBER 30 DEADLINE FOR EXCHANGE OF RATIFIED DOCUMENTS.

3. THE COMMUNISTS (SKP) AND COMMUNIST FRONTERS (SKDL) WERE THE ONLY ONES TO VOTE AGAINST.

4. THE NINE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC MP'S WHO LAST WEEK HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION BY THEIR PARTY TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE; I.E., VOTE

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AGAINST, EITHER ABSTAINED (SEVEN) OR ABSENTED THEMSELVES (TWO).

IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THEY WERE AT THE LAST MOMENT PERSUADED BY THE PARTY TO ADOPT THIS PROCEDURE, RATHER THAN AN OUTRIGHT VOTE AGAINST, AFTER THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS HAD COME IN FOR HEAVY CRITICISM AND PRESSURE FROM THE CENTER PARTY FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S "CONSCIENCE" PERMISSION.

5. APPENDED TO THE RATIFICATION BILL WAS A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH STATES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT "IF IT IS SHOWN DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EEC AGREEMENT THAT IT CAUSES DAMAGE TO COOPERATION BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DOES NOT DEVELOP IN THE WAY THAT IS ENVISAGED IN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION, FINLAND SHOULD MAKE USE OF ITS RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE EEC AGREEMENT.

6. THE STATEMENT IS OPEN TO INTERPRETATION AND MAY SOME DAY COME BACK TO HAUNT THE FINNS. MEANWHILE, WHAT IS LABELED IN MANY QUARTERS AS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION FINLAND HAS HAD TO MAKE DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, DESPITE MANY TWISTS AND TURNS AND DELAYS. THE MAIN CREDIT FOR IT UNQUESTIONABLY GOES TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN. MORE COMMENT TO FOLLOW.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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